

THE BRIDGE



December 2020 – January 2021

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR DROXFORD, MEONSTOKE, CORHAMPTON & EXTON

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The Magazine for the Meon Bridge Benefice of Droxford, Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton with Preshaw

www.bridgechurches.org.uk

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**The COPY DEADLINE
for the next issue of
THE BRIDGE is**
**MONDAY 4th
JANUARY**

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Our Rector was saying in the last issue how the Covid-19 restrictions have brought our community closer, and this edition of The Bridge would seem to bear this out.

There's the astonishing response to the Tiles project, in which over 90 villagers put their artistic skills to use to illustrate their feelings about living together under lockdown; the generosity of people responding to Sarah Snowdon's fund-raising walk to raise funds for her partner Richard's medical needs, and also to the appeal on behalf of Tors Corbett after the death of her husband John; and the dozen or so volunteers who set up a help line which, at the height of the first lockdown, was taking calls from isolated villagers at the rate of almost two a day. Congratulations, too, to Droxford builder Mike Wigglesworth who has just qualified as a firefighter with the Droxford Fire Station, and who on page 23 describes the arduous training course he had to undergo.

If you know of others doing inspiring things in the community, please let me know.

Ian Gilchrist, Editor

Cover picture: The tiles mural, which was contributed to by dozens of villagers and is now on permanent display in the Meon Hall foyer.

THE BRIDGE is delivered at the start of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. If you are responsible for village activities, diaries and schedules, please send your write-ups to the Bridge Editor at the address shown above. Copy in Microsoft word is preferred, rather than PDFs which can sometimes present layout problems.

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Secretary:

Richard Pepys 878035

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Position vacant; applications welcome

Sacristan:

Position vacant; applications welcome

Verger:

Bob Miles

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON

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Angela Peagram 878725

Secretary:

(via Churchwarden)

Treasurer:

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Iain Gammell 878162

Organists

(Meonstoke): Position vacant; applications welcome

(Corhampton): John Martin (am) 877385

Sacristan:

Karen Ellis 878619

PRESHAW

Coordinator: Position vacant; applications welcome

OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Roman Catholic Church (Bishop's Waltham)

Canon Alan Griffiths 07760 220346

Methodist & United Free Church

(Bishop's Waltham) The Reverend Joseph Tembo 01329 833518

Great work by our churchyard clearers

Twenty volunteers turned up to St Andrew's Church with wheelbarrows, hedge cutters, chain saws, loppers and edging tools to spend three hours in a much-needed tidying up of the churchyard.

The work involved extensive weeding, removing of ivy from walls and trees, clearing leaves and paths, trimming hedges, cutting down of some trees and pruning of others, tidying up graves and cremation plaques, and finally planting a row of daffodil bulbs along the path leading to the lychgate.

Organiser Angela Peagram says, "They tussled with enormously thick ivy, and carefully manicured the path up to the



Pat McGibbon tackles a tree stump

church: they weeded and chopped, strimmed and pruned. Some tasks are annual, like cutting back the shoots from the lower part of the row of lime trees, and some of the tasks have needed doing for some time.

"At the end we'd filled nine one-tonne bags with debris. I don't believe we have ever achieved so much in just one session before.

"The grateful thanks of the Churchwarden and the PCC go to all those who brought their skill, care, knowledge and muscle-power to the much needed tasks. What a brilliant job they did!"

The Churchwardens (past and present) of the Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice would like to wish all those who support the life and work of the church in so many different ways

A Very Happy and Joyous Christmas

We would also like to say a HUGE "Thank You" to you for all you do

from Angela, Richard, Jill and Sheila Corhampton and Meonstoke, St Andrew's; St Mary and All Saints, Droxford; and St Peter and St Paul, Exton



From the Registers

Baptisms

St Andrew's Church 20th September:
Evie Patricia Tosdevine and Roland
Jack Tosdevine

Burial

East Meon Sustainability Centre 10th October:
William Joseph Hands, aged 30

ON REFLECTION

Light in the Pandemic



A profusion of rainbows sprung up like spring flowers in March and April, as the intensity of the first wave of the pandemic hit home.

Its effects were felt profoundly in the Health Service and among care homes, where the impact of this then little-known virus on the patients and residents, and on their anxious and grieving families, was devastating.

And yet rainbows, symbols of hope, sprung up in a way that is reminiscent of all the secular use of light to brighten our streets in winter, and in the way that many religions, including Christianity, use light and symbols as symbols of hope.

Pandemics are not new. Julian of Norwich, the 14th-century female mystic, knew pandemic. As a child she lived through the Black Death, which killed about a third of the people in her city. At age 30, sick and near death, she had a series of mystical visions of Jesus. She survived and went on to write an account of these visions, which are still widely read. In one vision she hears Jesus say, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

The challenge of hope

More current Christian thought often places the emphasis on what people can do in the world to bring about faith or uncertainty about matters divine; the hope that “all shall be well” keeps us going, just as light dispels darkness, symbolically and literally.

Surely, we are all now challenged, even called, to live in unfaltering hope, and in a caring way that will later succeed.

Quite some years ago, I read about Admiral Stockdale in Jim Collins's book ‘From Good to Great’. The related discipline of survival psychology, undergirded for some of us by faith, shines a light on the present moment. It shines light into the darkness of these times and many of us, at

this time of year, would recognise that as part of the God-sent Light of the World.

“Never lost faith”

Stockdale was a POW in Vietnam for over seven years. His experiences were grim. But, Stockdale is recorded as saying: “I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade.”

Of the prisoners who did not survive the camps, he said. “The optimists ... were the ones who said, ‘We’re going to be out by Christmas.’ And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then ... it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart ...”

This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality. This formulation became known as the Stockdale Paradox.

God’s ultimate conquest

The theologian Sam Wells, often heard on Radio 4, writes about persisting in a cause that may seem hopeless now, but will ultimately succeed, rather than participating in a cause that seems successful now but which will ultimately fail. For Christians, this is about belief in God’s ultimate conquest of darkness, sickness and even death in the ‘end times’ – what theologians call an eschatological conviction. Or put in the simple way that Julian did: “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

The change of lifestyle forced on many of us by the COVID-19 pandemic has been unusual, unsettling and at times frightening. Advent, Christmas and Easter teach Christians that the fundamental eschatological virtue is hope, the belief expressed in confident action that God will act to transform our world. Hope is not easy or simple, certainly not in times like these.

With that in mind, we hope that you have an especially happy Christmas, in whatever form it takes, and we pray earnestly for a happy, hope-filled and healthy 2021 for you all.

***The Reverend Tony Forrest
Rector***

PROVISIONAL SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2020

All subject to change under the prevailing Pandemic Regulations and Guidance.
Please check the website for details of informal and mid-week services.

Date	Time	Service	Church
6th Advent 2	10.30 am	St Nicholas & Toy Service	Meonstoke
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Exton
13th Advent 3	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Droxford
15th Tuesday	7 pm	Outdoor Carols (Subject to regulations permitting)	Droxford
20th Advent 4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Meonstoke
24th Christmas Eve	3.30 pm	Crib Service	Droxford
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Meonstoke
25th Christmas Day	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Exton
	9.30 am	Family Service followed by optional Holy Communion	Meonstoke
	11 am	Family Service followed by optional Holy Communion	Droxford
27th St John	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Exton

PROVISIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021

All subject to change under the prevailing Pandemic Regulations and Guidance.
Please check the website for details of informal and mid-week services.

Date	Time	Service	Church
3rd Epiphany	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Meonstoke
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Exton
10th Baptism of Christ	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Droxford
17th Epiphany 2	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Exton
	10.30 am	Mattins or Morning Prayer (BCP)	Meonstoke
24th Epiphany 3	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Corhampton
	9.30 am	... Unwrapped Informal Service	Meonstoke
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Exton
31st Candlemas	10.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Meonstoke

Congratulations to Nell and Steve, our Lockdown Heroes!

Local postman Steve White and Corhampton Stores owner Nell Gibson have each received an award from the Mayor of Winchester for their “outstanding service” to the local community during the lockdown.

Residents and Parish Councils across the Winchester district were asked to nominate people they felt deserved recognition for their contribution to their local community.

The result was more than 100 citations pouring into the Mayor’s office, showcasing the sacrifices people across the district have made, and the time they have given to help others since the outbreak.

Mayor Cllr Patrick Cunningham said, “It’s been a way to say thank you to our local heroes, people who have shown extraordinary selflessness during a time

which has been most challenging for all.

“Reading how local residents have been picking up shopping, prescriptions or simply sitting down to have a friendly chat with a vulnerable member of the community, has been truly heart-warming and reinforces the caring, neighbourly spirit that we are lucky to have right across our district.

“This whole exercise has reinforced my faith in the truly special people of the Winchester district and underscores my hope for a strong recovery as we rebuild. Our community resilience will help us through.”



Postie Steve

Several villagers and the Meonstoke and Corhampton Parish Council nominated postman Steve White for a Local Heroes Award.

Steve has worked for the Post Office for 32 years, and has been delivering the mail in Exton, Corhampton and Meonstoke for the past three of them.

Typical of the citations sent in to the Mayor was this from the Parish Council:

“Though often working extra shifts during the pandemic he’s always had a cheery word and a smile; and that smile has never faltered.

“He’s never been too busy for a kind word and a quick chat, despite the fact that he was extra busy during the lockdown - taking time to lift the spirits of those who were feeling lonely and scared.

“He even added some notes handwritten by local children to his round, to drop in and cheer up those struggling.

“Truly a local hero!”



Nell Gibson

Nell Gibson and her family have run the Corhampton Stores and Post Office for seven years.

These were typical of the citations from villagers:

“From the start of the lockdown Nell has worked tirelessly to ensure not only that our shop stayed open daily, but that all essentials continued to get through to all our more vulnerable and self-isolating residents.”

“She corralled an army of volunteers to deliver groceries and medicines to people's doors. Even through her own family's enforced isolation she ensured the shop carried on. Truly a local hero.”

“When I lost my husband, a box of goodies - a card, plant, treats and essentials such as milk - appeared on my doorstep within a couple of

hours. If you need anything, just ask. Nothing is too much trouble for Nell. Thank you Nell, for your wonderful work!”

With typical modesty a slightly embarrassed Nell said: “I’m flattered, but I know lots of others who deserve an award.”

Champagne welcome for Sarah and Hannah at the end of their sponsored walk for Richard

Dozens of villagers welcomed Sarah Snowdon and her friend Hannah Carpenter with champagne and bunting as they returned to Meonstoke after a 38-mile walk from Salisbury to raise funds for medical treatment for Sarah's partner Richard Burdett.

Richard suffered an extremely rare spinal stroke in July, which caused instant paralysis. After 44 days on a ventilator in intensive care at Southampton General Hospital he moved to Salisbury Spinal Centre where he has now recovered sufficiently to expect to be back home with Sarah at their Chapel Road home by Christmas.

But his full rehabilitation may take a long time and require at least £30,000 of specialist equipment and rehabilitation that isn't available on the NHS, which is why Sarah decided on the two-day sponsored walk, which has helped to raise the total so far to over £18,000.

She says, "Our aim is to secure enough money to send Richard to Hobbs Rehab, which is a leading spinal and neuro-physiotherapy unit based in Winchester. But intensive rehab at Hobbs costs between £2k and £4k a week, and Richard may need weeks of treatment with them.

"Then once his treatment at Hobbs is finished he will still need specialist equipment at home to support his ongoing rehabilitation which, coupled with determination, hard work and sheer bloody mindedness may, just possibly, get Rich back on his feet in some way."

After completing the walk an exhausted Sarah added, "It was extremely challenging but also very rewarding. Hannah kept me motivated with music, gin and chocolates. We started struggling around The Milburys in Beauworth and so I stopped to give myself a foot massage before the final push home.



Sarah, right, with Hannah outside the Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury at the start of their walk

"It was a lovely surprise to be greeted by Cllr Hugh Lumby at the bottom of Beacon Hill and he accompanied us with good cheer to Meonstoke. Upon our arrival in the village, we received such a warm welcome from our fellow villagers, who had put up bunting and 'welcome home' signs outside their homes and who waved and clapped as we walked on by."

Hannah Carpenter commented, "It was an honour to walk alongside Sarah from Richard's temporary residence at Salisbury Spinal Unit to Meonstoke, symbolic of his journey home to Sarah after having spent almost five months apart from one another.

"We received constant messages of encouragement during the walk, for which we are truly grateful, and these helped immensely to lift our spirits and keep us moving onwards. Richard was never far from our thoughts and the generosity of all our sponsors has made Richard's return home before Christmas possible."

Sarah added, "Looking back on the walk it was hard but definitely the best thing I've ever done because it will make a massive difference to Rich's rehabilitation. He's in good spirits, says he's very proud of me and can't wait to be home.

"I'd like to thank everyone so much for all their support over the last few months. Lots of people have already donated to Richard's page, made me cakes, brownies, posted cards, bought me flowers and just generally been so kind, so lovely, and made us feel honoured to live here.

"This village has been amazing, you have all been really great and got me through a really challenging time!"

To donate to the fund please visit
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/richardburdett



Sarah and Richard

Tiles Project Is a Great Success

Piers Frere-Cook had a problem: what to do with dozens of leftover 4 x 4 inch clay tiles at his Exton home? The answer: invite villagers to paint their thoughts on them about life in our local community.

He approached Nell Gibson at the Stores who readily agreed to advertise the idea on the steps of the shop. Her 12-year-old son Jed then took entire charge of the project, collecting and collating the finished tiles as they came in.

And the result: just under 100 tiles with some beautiful artwork on each which, after several hours of gluing and carpentry by James Morrice, have now been made into a huge framed mural which is to be displayed permanently in the Meon Hall foyer.

Many of the tiles depict life under lockdown, with tributes to

the NHS and uplifting messages of hope, while others reflect the close community spirit that exists in our villages.

Piers is delighted with the way people have responded. "I thought that instead of the tiles being chucked in a skip they could be used to give villagers a creative outlet to relieve the gloom of lockdown, by expressing their feelings in whatever way they liked.

"And the response has been fantastic. It's exceeded all my expectations. Everyone from two-year-olds to people in their 80s have got involved, and in these difficult times I think it's helped to bring us all closer together.

"My thanks to Nell, Jed and James for their wonderful involvement, and of course to everyone who took part and helped to make it such a success."



Jed, James and Piers at the unveiling of the mural in the Meon Hall



The Meon Hall

REPORT

200 Club

Winners of the 2020 monthly £25 prize draws were:

October: Sharon Hill

November: Andrew Fielder

The 200 Club raises money to help with buying new equipment and making improvements for the Meon Hall, and by the time you read this, the winners of the £300, £150, and £100 prizes for 2020 will have been drawn at the substitute virtual event for the Lockdown-cancelled Beetle Drive.

Something will have happened on Saturday 5 December somewhere in Meonstoke - but who knows what or where or when!

Details of prize winners will be published in the Meonstoke Stores, and on Social Media. So, looking ahead to the coming year's 200 Club, monthly £25 Prize draws will be made from February on the first Saturday of each month. During the year there will be a £50 Midsummer Prize, while the special draws for the £300, £150, and £100 prizes will take place in November 2021.

So what has been going on recently?

Whisper it quietly.... not a lot, but all done very Covid-19 safely. Big applause to the Meon Valley Orchestra who came back from lockdown in August and have been rehearsing with increasing confidence every Thursday morning since then in the Main Hall, with numbers increasing to over 30 players each week, socially distanced in instrument "bubbles." And well done to the Meonstorks Toddlers Group, re-formed and eager to meet up weekly also on Thursday mornings with a locked foyer door to separate them from the MV Orchestra, and nappy change facilities in the Sports Changing Rooms. Yoga and Badminton have re-started again, and Sarah Stuart's Fitness class will soon be moving indoors from the Recreation Ground. Well done everyone! (That was written of course before Lockdown 2 when everything

stopped. From 2nd December all hirings of the Meon Hall will hopefully start again).

Thanks to the team

At the recent Meon Hall AGM it was a pleasure to hear that all the trustees would continue to serve on the Meon Hall Management Committee to maintain continuity through a difficult time. Particular thanks to Sue Marsh for a successful first year as Treasurer keeping the Meon Hall finances well organised, and to Natalie Lumby for checking through Sue's accounts for the annual Examination which gets reported to the Charity Commission.

Thanks also to Liz Clements and Jill Hignett for kindly offering to do the Friday morning weekly sanitising wipe of handles and surfaces throughout the Meon Hall – another mind-numbing but important Covid-19 task.

Proficiency badges to be awarded soon, ladies!

Recycling

Please recycle your unwanted clothes, shoes, and textiles in the Yellow Bin at the Meon Hall which raises money for our Hampshire First Responders – trained and experienced local volunteers who turn up quickly to a 999 medical emergency. Our aim has been to raise at least £500 from our recycling in 2020 to help fund this important local service.

Planning a family party over Christmas and New Year?

Order all those extra tables, chairs, china, champagne flutes and wine glasses, and cutlery for your government-permitted festive entertaining from the Meon Hall. When planning ahead, contact the Meon Hall Bookings Secretary on meonhallbookings@yahoo.co.uk

If short notice and urgent, please ring either Hannah Carpenter on 07414 121201 or myself on 01489 877916.

James Morrice

LOST IN MEONSTOKE

Gold Hooped Earring, whilst out dog walking. Lost between Exton and via footpath behind houses in High Street, past Walnut Cottage in New Road, and to Shady Grove and then from Shady Grove along footpath at rear of Pound Lane, back via Stocks Lane.

If anyone has found an earring matching the description, please call Sue on 07904 047679.

Volunteer help line received calls at the rate of almost two a day

A community help line which was set up at the start of the pandemic has been remarkably successful – taking up to a dozen calls a week at the height of the lockdown, from villagers experiencing isolation problems.

These included seeking assistance collecting prescriptions, shopping, walking dogs, mowing lawns, mending broken gutters and repairing household appliances.

It began when a group of local people - **Jess Bassett, Steve Clark, Ian Harding, Sian Holiday, Kate Lewis, Hugh Lumby, Pat McGibbon, Jerry Pett, Nell Ravenscroft, Jo Webb and Sarah Snowdon** - met online to co-ordinate offers of help, and to make sure anyone who needed support could get it.

Ten months later, Hugh Lumby looks back on its success: “Back in March everyone was told to stay indoors, except for a daily walk, and non-essential travel was banned. Lots of people were shielding too, so we didn't want anyone to feel cut-off.

“We wanted to make sure everyone could get what they needed in terms of food, prescriptions and anything else,

and Nell and her team at the village shop have been great.

“Sian, Karen Ellis and Rosie Minors have collected prescriptions. Pat has arranged weekly meat orders from Westlands, which Jess delivered, and Kate co-ordinated a wonderful team of people who made masks.

“Two village WhatsApp groups were set up, one for information and one for a general chat. But as not everyone uses WhatsApp, Facebook or email, the Parish Council initially offered to cover the cost of a phone line, but then a company called ttnc kindly said they would provide it for free - and they are still doing that now, which is very decent of them.

“A leaflet with the helpline number on was delivered by volunteers to everyone in Meonstoke, Corhampton and Exton,



Kate Lewis' daughter Elodie models one of the masks

and put on noticeboards.

“Many of the early calls were from people wanting IT help so that they could keep in touch with relatives they couldn't see face-to-face – so we had a group of volunteers who could help people get started with Facebook and WhatsApp, or help with Wi-Fi issues.

“The number of calls has now reduced since earlier in the year, but the line will remain open until at least the Spring on 01489 450499, and anyone who needs help should call, as we have lots of people willing to help.”

TENNIS



To those who are new to our villages or just don't know about us, Meonstoke Tennis Club is a 'not for profit' club, set up at the Meon Hall recreational ground to provide a court for local village families to play on.

We are just celebrating the end of our fourth very successful year and our membership continues to grow, with 72 families registered.

At the time of writing, however, the lockdown rules are currently preventing us from operating, but hopefully that will change soon and we can all get back to enjoying this wonderful form of exercise and fun.

Once we are back in business the subscription for 2021 is only £28 for the whole year and for the whole family – and this includes any grandchildren! Plus a one-off £10 payment for a court key.

Full details on how to join us and book a court are on our website at www.meonstoketennis.com

Kate Cook Secretary

Missing: one blue plaque

Does anybody know what became of the blue HMS Mercury plaque that used to be displayed on the wall of The Hurdles?

Tony Williams, who is renovating the house prior to moving into it from the old Droxford Station, is keen to find out.

It was erected in 2015 to commemorate the pub's frequent use by HMS Mercury who worked at the Naval Signals School at East Meon from 1941 to 1993.

They must have been a thirsty lot because we know that six other Hampshire pubs were similarly honoured. Pictured is the one at the Rising Sun at Clanfield.

Tony says: "When I purchased The Hurdles last year the plaque had disappeared. Now that I've almost finished converting the building I would like to find it, and reinstall it in its rightful place.

"So if anyone knows of its whereabouts, please contact me on 01489 878271."



Problem getting your phone line working? Need help with a complicated form?

The pandemic may have temporarily prevented the Droxford and District Community Care Group from driving people to medical appointments, but its volunteers have continued to help people in many other ways.

One elderly villager living alone had obtained a do-it-yourself Will from the Internet, and was finding it hard to understand. A team member sorted out the details for them, and even offered to act as their Witness.

A recently bereaved lady needed help filling in forms concerning benefits and Council tax.

Group chair Za Rowe says, "She was completely baffled by some of the questions, and it was a great relief to her when we were able to go through it with her, and help her fill in the

answers quickly and easily."

As well as the above they have helped people apply for blue badges and other benefits, and resolved problems with BT such as contacting them when the line has become faulty; or registering for BT's priority repair scheme – something which is especially important if the emergency alarm is connected to their phone, says Za, as the alarm only works when the phone line does.

The Group covers all four villages, and receives funding through the Diocesan Good Neighbours Scheme, which in turn is funded by Hampshire County Council.

For help phone Za Rowe in confidence on 01489 877732.



WANTED! Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Meonstoke High Street

Hours: highly flexible, and not many at all.

Pay: don't bother asking.

Pension, Car etc: ditto.

For further details, contact: Peter 07702 863954 or ilmarinai44@gmail.com

Regarding your co-ordinators, retiring after decades as a street co-ordinator for Rectory Lane is Norah Burrage, who was also a stalwart of running the Darby & Joan Club. Our grateful thanks to Norah! Joining us for Rectory Lane we have Sally & Mike Fithyan; and for Chapel Road, where we've swapped co-ordinators, Gemma Radcliffe. (Please see Page 24 for the full list).

Also we had, last year, worked more closely with the Droxford co-ordinator, Gordon Hope, until he retired early this year. We'd like to record our thanks to Gordon for his decades of newsletter posting, walking the lanes of Droxford and posting information on the village notice board. Droxford is now a separate scheme from ours.

Considering retiring, also, is Janet Dobby, our Meonstoke High Street co-ordinator. More on that when we have a replacement (see above).

Finally, anyone who hasn't yet signed-up for our FREE NW service, which keeps you up to date on criminal activity hereabouts, please contact me.

Peter Riley, Chairman, and all your co-ordinators

HOW CHILDREN AND TEACHERS AT DROXFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL HAVE ADAPTED BRILLIANTLY TO THE LOCKDOWN



Although in these changeable times anything could have happened in the fortnight between *The Bridge* going to press and the time you read this, the situation as I write is that it's great for us to have been back in school again, with attendance high and the children and teachers all positive.

Despite being in this new lockdown we have still been able to operate fully, after making a number of changes to adapt to the Government guidelines.

In the morning, for example, the children who arrive on the school bus, or who are dropped off by parents, walk up to the school in a socially distanced and organised manner, and enter the school via the Year 3/4 route at the side gate, or the Year 5/6 route. They are then funnelled on to the playground, ready to go into school in their fixed group/bubbles and sit in their lovely classrooms with their bright new chairs in rows.

At break time the children play on the playground within their own class but they can still see and talk to their friends, whilst at lunch they eat packed lunches in their classrooms, or in the hall, with socially-distanced table seating arrangements.

At the end of the day there is a socially-distanced assembly in the school hall, and on Fridays music takes place in the hall and outside, weather permitting.

Although this isn't how we would normally have the school organised, I feel this is a successful balance of being safe while retaining the essence of what we have at the school. The children and staff have adapted admirably, as of course have the parents, who I very much thank for their patience and co-operation. We are so delighted that all children are back in school, and enjoying it so much.

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

... AND MEONSTOKE SCHOOL IS BUBBLING AWAY TOO!

Despite these uncertain times I too am delighted to say that all our pupils have fully settled in this term, and have been enjoying a range of exciting topics for learning, with a strong emphasis on Maths, Reading and Writing to make up any gaps in learning caused by the Covid-19 closures.

The teachers and children continue to take every challenge in their stride; and we are happy to report that all bubbles have a buzz of engagement and enthusiasm each day!

All parents have been able to discuss their child's progress via a Zoom parents' evening, giving them the chance to share any concerns around gaps in learning, and discuss ways to support their learning at home to help close the gaps.



Keeping their distance: Droxford children practise their recorders in the playground.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, and Swift Horticulture, who contributed gardening resources to our outdoor learning sessions. The children are loving the opportunity to grow their own crops!



Love and Respect

I also want to give a special mention to the Gordon family who provided the large tree stumps for our 'stumpery.' We are hoping the area attracts lots of "minibeasts" for the children to explore.

Emma Howell
Interim Head Teacher

Correction

In the last issue of *The Bridge* Meonstoke teacher Mrs Tanya Titmuss was referred to as having retired, whereas in fact she had resigned.

Make Liz's delicious carrot cake!

At the time of writing we at Wilfrid's Café in Droxford are, along with everyone else, sadly into our second lockdown, and we've been unable to open for takeaways either, as we can't keep our volunteers safe and compliant with the regulations.



But we're not going to focus on that! Let's look forwards instead! All being well, we're re-opening for a couple of special weeks on 7th December, and while you are waiting for that to happen how about trying out one of the recipes that our talented Cake Bakers make for the Cafe? Here's Liz Lane's Carrot Cake recipe.

Ingredients

230g self raising flour
155ml of sunflower oil, plus extra for greasing
1 tsp baking powder
1½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp ground ginger
230g light brown Muscovado sugar
100g pecans, halved, plus extra for decoration
260g carrots, coarsely grated
3 medium eggs, beaten
Icing
50g butter, softened
200g full-fat cream cheese
100g icing sugar, plus extra to dust



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan160°C/gas 4.
2. Grease an 18cm loose-bottomed round cake tin and line the base with baking paper.
3. Sift the flour, baking powder and spices into a large bowl.
4. Add the sugar, pecans and grated carrots, then stir until well combined.
5. Stir in the beaten eggs and oil, then mix well.
6. Pour into the prepared cake tin and bake in the oven for 1 hour or until a skewer comes out clean.
7. Transfer to a cooling rack, leave in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out and leave to cool completely before icing.
8. For the icing, beat the butter in a large bowl with a hand mixer until really soft.
9. Add the cream cheese and beat again until well mixed.
10. Sift in the icing sugar, then beat until smooth.
11. Store, covered, in the fridge until needed.
12. Carefully cut the cake in half then spread half the icing between the cake layers and the remaining icing on top of the cake.
13. Decorate with chopped pecans.

Margaret Wallace



Heritage team prepares another year of Corhampton Church celebrations

A full programme of cultural and heritage-based events is being arranged by a 60-strong team of volunteers to continue celebrating the 1,000 years of Corhampton Church's history through into 2021.

Here, Guy Liardet reflects on how our church has survived through wars, famines and plagues; and stresses the importance of continuing to look after it, to ensure it will still be here in another thousand years.

We who live in this part of the Meon Valley enjoy a remarkable inheritance.

Five thousand years ago there were Neolithic barrows at Shavard's and Exton Manor farms. The Valley is littered with Bronze and Iron Age barrows, ring ditches and artefacts.

When Alaric the Goth sacked Rome in 410 AD, the Roman legions left Britannia and the Romans abandoned their farms at St Clairs and Corhampton Lane, as well as the high-end Iron Age and Roman temple, bath house and villa complex at Exton.

For 600 years Anglo-Saxon culture developed, creating settlements at Shavard's Farm and elsewhere with large cemeteries at West Meon and Droxford.

Came the year 1000. This round number caused believers fearfully to expect the Second Coming and the End

of the World. Raoul Glaber, a monk at the Abbey of Cluny, said; "The whole world was shrugging off the burdens of the past and cladding itself everywhere with a white mantle of churches."

We believe that 1020 AD is a fair estimate for the completion date of Corhampton Saxon Church, built of Glaber's 'white stone' atop a pagan mound alongside a possibly much older yew tree.

William the Conqueror's victory over Harold Godwinson in 1066 enabled the imposition of a Norman culture, and in 1087 the farsighted production of the tax-base-establishing Domesday Book.

After a tally of Corhampton's households, ploughlands and mills, the Book mentions 'one church.' So for a thousand years our church has supported a prayerful community's hopes and fears through wars, famines,



plagues and religious turbulence.

The famous wall paintings were added in the late eleven hundreds. Our tenor bell is marked '1619 I H in God is My Hope'. In 1647 and 1651 after the Naseby and Worcester battles, both King Charles I and the future Charles II galloped past on their celebrated escapes.

In 1842 the east end collapsed and was rebuilt clumsily in brick. A sensitive restoration was made in 1905. In 1918 Private Charles Vivash was laid to rest under a Commonwealth War Graves headstone. In 1999, generous community contributions enabled another comprehensive restoration, the rehung bells to ring in the Millennium.

A long and mainly humdrum history, you may say. But Corhampton Church is a legacy which we owe to our predecessors' faith and works. We have a duty to maintain it.

Next time you are in Corhampton Church, lean your back up against the astounding solidity of the Saxon chancel arch stonework, and reflect.

We are grateful for the support of the National Lottery Community Fund, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park.

Guy Liardet

Commemorative mugs for sale -
see page 26

And here are some new dates for 2021

Sun 21st Mar, 4pm St Andrew's: Olivet to Calvary from scratch.

Fri 26th Mar, 6pm Corhampton: Yew Tree Talk by national yew tree expert Toby Hindson.

Sat 8th May, 6.30pm Corhampton: Performance of "My Darling Clemmie" by renowned actor Rohan McCullough.

Fri 21st May, 7pm St Andrew's: One-man show by rebellious priest, psychotherapist and poet David Keighley following the publication in the US of his work "Poetry, Piety and Psyche."

Sat 5th and Sun 6th Jun, 10am to 5pm Corhampton and St Andrew's: Flower displays, with music

and readings at 11am and 2pm on Saturday in Corhampton.

Sat 2nd Oct, 6.30pm Meon Hall: The Madding Crowd band perform music from 1660-1861, plus a delicious Harvest Supper (note the new time).

Tue 19th Oct, 7.30pm St Andrew's: Organ recital by our very own Richard Martin.

Anna's lockdown limericks

Pauline Quarendon's daughter Anna spent much of her childhood in Meonstoke, and was, until she retired a couple of years ago, a broadcast journalist with BBC Radio Wiltshire. Since then she has been tweeting a daily limerick, and has published a book containing more than 300 of them. Recently she began using the lockdown as her inspiration, and we thought you might like to read some of her rhymes.

A lockdown lim'rick a day
Won't keep the doctor away
But tho' I'm no Ovid
Some rhymes about Covid
Might help to keep boredom at bay

Months now since test, track and trace
Of Covid was put into place
But if it was working
We'd know where it's lurking
And then we'd be right on the case

When Cummings was caught in the act
We all thought his bags would be packed
But Boris, his saviour,
Excused his behaviour
And that's why his aide wasn't sacked

The briefings are back in their slot
At 5 o'clock right on the dot
With death tolls and news
Political views
And ministers losing the plot

Many an overworked nurse
Who, knowing that things might get worse,
Just can't understand
Why all round the land
People behave so perverse

The council's decision is final
You can't use a public urinal
There's nowhere to pee
In a W.C.
You can ask, but you'll get a declinal

So, now here we all go again
A sadly familiar refrain
Second lockdown's begun
But this time, no sun
Cooped up in the grey and the rain

It's tempting on Saturday night
To say to your friends "well, alright."
So - what do you think -
Shall we meet for a drink?"
Not yet! We've still got to sit tight.

For more of Anna's limericks tweet #QuangleVerse



Anna Quarendon

Petersfield Hospital

Swan Street, Petersfield GU32 3LB
Tel: 023 8231 9000

MINOR INJURIES UNIT

Open 8.00am to 6.00pm 365 days a year

As a dedicated Minor Injuries Team, we can treat many minor injuries for all ages including:

Cuts & Abrasions

Burns

Ear & nose injuries

Eye injuries



Foreign bodies

Head Injuries

Minor Fractures

Nose bleeds

Splinters, Sprains & Strains

If we cannot treat your injury, we will refer you to another member of our multi-disciplinary team.

These can include:

- **Accident & Emergency Department**

- **Dentist**

- **Fracture Clinic**

- **General Practitioner**

- **Ophthalmic Optician**

We have X-ray facilities Monday to Friday from 9.00am to midday. Waiting times vary, but most patients are seen, treated and discharged within an hour.

IN THE GARDEN

December & January



At the time of writing there has been no frost, so that many of the less hardy plants, normally killed off by now, are still around. This means that there will be even more clearance work than usual to do in December and January. It has also been very wet so extra care must be taken not to compact the soil when working in herbaceous and mixed borders. This can be achieved by standing on boards or planks to spread your weight. Lawns too have continued to grow so a final cut, with the blade set high, will be necessary before the end of the year.

Vegetables

Keep the vegetable plot free of weeds and debris that can shelter pests. Prepare the site for next year's runner beans by digging a trench, and incorporating some well-rotted manure and shredded paper, before replacing the soil. This is particularly advisable with raised beds because they dry out quite quickly. In January first indoor sowings of early cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce can be made.

Fruit

Cut back newly planted bushes and canes of soft fruit such as summer raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and red currants. Complete winter pruning of established apple and pear trees. Do not prune stone fruits such as cherries, peaches, and nectarines, plums and damsons in order to avoid fungal attacks such as silver leaf and canker. Also, delay cutting down autumn fruiting raspberries until mid-February.

Herbaceous border

Take root cuttings of plants such as Japanese Anemone, Verbascum, phlox and hardy geranium. Divide and replant larger clumps of perennials such as Michaelmas daisy, solidago and phlox. Check ties supporting wall-trained plants and loosen or replace as necessary. Old tights can be used for thicker branches and they cause less damage than wire or plastic. Cut down old ornamental grasses.

Trees and Shrubs

Prune deciduous trees to shape. Plant bare rooted roses, if you

have not already done so. Cut back very tall buddleia, roses and lavatera by about a third to avoid wind-rock damage over the winter months. Final pruning should be delayed until spring. Finish winter pruning of shrubs whilst adjoining perennials are still dormant.

In the greenhouse

Take care of overwintering plants, keep them fairly dry, clear up all fallen leaves and dead flowers, and keep a constant watch out for pests and diseases, particularly fungal rot and mildew. Use slug pellets judiciously. January is the time to sow greenhouse tomatoes and peppers, which need a long growing season.

John Owen

Season of mists...

As we approach the end of November, there has quite naturally been a change in the weather. The clocks have changed, giving us lighter mornings, but with darkness setting in much earlier, particularly on dull days. The changing colour of the leaves to those golden hues which we associate with autumn, can be seen all around.

It is sad to say goodbye to the brighter days of autumn, but then each season brings its own beauty, and its own celebrations and weather complications. Hailstones and thunder have already been experienced, though not regularly.

Perhaps the following lines from a sonnet by William Shakespeare best describe our present weather:

*That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.*

Jackie Hibbert

WINCHESTER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

- Vicki Weston (Independent)

CENTRAL AND UPPER MEON VALLEY WARDS

New Garden Waste Collection Scheme

From 1st February the free garden waste collection from people's homes will be discontinued, after which such waste will only be collected from residents who have opted to purchase a new garden waste bin.

These are available at an annual fee of £59 for a standard size bin, or £39 for a smaller bin.

- The standard sized bin is 1m high, 70cm deep and 60cm wide, equivalent to 2.7 of the current garden waste bag.
- The smaller bin is 1m high, 55cm deep and 50cm wide, equivalent to 1.6 of the current garden waste bag)

The new service will give significant increase in capacity over the current bags, and mean that the waste is easier and safer to move, and will not be blown away and lost, as is common with the bag system. It will also keep the green waste material dry.

Compost will continue to be processed in the same way as present, being turned into PRO GROW organic soil conditioner, which is for sale online or at recycling centres.

Once you have subscribed to receive the service, a brown bin will be delivered to you, which will be emptied on the days detailed on your existing garden waste collection calendar. You



Winchester
City Council



Your local City Councillors wish all residents a Happy Christmas and New Year despite the challenging times we are experiencing. Keep yourselves and your families safe through these tough times.

Vicki Weston vweston@winchester.gov.uk
Hugh Lumby hlumby@winchester.gov.uk
Frank Pearson fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
Laurence Ruffell lruffell@winchester.gov.uk
Linda Gemmell lgemmell@winchester.gov.uk

can start using your new bin as soon as it is delivered.

You can keep your existing bag to move material around your garden, but collection will only be made from the new bins, unless you are from a council-approved property which is not able to receive one.

There are some council-approved locations where for operational reasons there is not room for an additional bin, which will continue to operate with a bag collection, but on the same charged-for basis as above.

You are able to share the bins with a neighbour if you want to reduce your individual cost, but the Council will need a single point of contact from whichever is the lead neighbour.

Instructions on how to sign up for and purchase the new bin can be found on: www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-wastecollection-sign-up

Vicki Weston
Councillor, Central Meon Valley

Pandemic affects Trust awards

The William Collins Trust, set up to benefit local young people who could do with financial help with their education, met by Zoom in October to decide its bi-annual awards. This was a first for us, and a sign of the current climate we are in.

Social distancing and remote working practices reflected the type of awards we made, which included funding for IT equipment and text books for college students working from home.

The restrictions also changed the kind of applications we received. There was a sad but understandable lack of requests to fund past visits to Calshot for Droxford Year 6 children, 3-day residential courses for those in Year 4 at Runways End Outdoor Centre at Aldershot, and geography field trips for Swanmore College students, all of which help build confidence and increase life skills.

The current times of hardship are likely to continue for so many, both socially and financially. Please remember that the William Collins Trust is here to help in any way we can with the education of under-25s in The Bridge Parishes.

Despite the Trust being nearly 300 years old, we are more than ready to embrace and support any different applications to support the challenges young people are facing, and all applications are in confidence.

The next awards meeting is to take place on 19 March 2021.

Sian Holiday



DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

In compliance with government guidelines, we have closed the Hall for the foreseeable future, and await further instructions after the present lockdown.

So while it is difficult to be more upbeat at the moment, nevertheless our village remains cheerful, and kindly friends and neighbours continue to help in all sorts of ways. The flowers and plants on the bus shelter and round the hall are still a nice show for all to see.

And a big thank you to Peter and Paul in the Post Office for continuing to supply our money, stamps, necessary food and household items in these difficult times. Many people depend on this shop, and we are more than grateful for the service you provide.

We are hoping that our annual Carols in the Square can go ahead in late December with mulled wine and mince pies, so please watch out for notices about date and time.

Finally we have our 200 Club winners. They are Peg Stevens for October, and Penny Brown for November.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jackie Hibbert, Secretary

**LOOK
IN**

**LIBRARY
BOOK-OUT!**

Let's hope that there will be more positive news in the New Year and the Meonstoke pop-in will be resumed. In the meantime keep well, keep positive and keep your fingers crossed for coffee, cake and chat in Meonstoke Church on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month; that goes for borrowing books and puzzles as well!

Lorna Allured 877718

**PLEASE DONATE
NEW WRAPPED TOYS
FOR CHILDREN OF
HOMELESS FAMILIES
THIS CHRISTMAS**

Bring to the special service at St Andrew's on **Sunday 6th December at 10.30 a.m.**

or drop into any of the benefice churches before 13th December 2020 or deliver to Bakerswell, Meonstoke (a box will be behind the tall wooden gate) between 30th November and 5th December

Please note:
St Andrew's Church is generally open for private prayer on Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday. Please see the benefice website for other opening times.

Droxford Church is open on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Exton Church is generally open for private prayer Monday to Thursday and Saturday and Sunday.

Please give generously, thank you.



Remembering Doreen

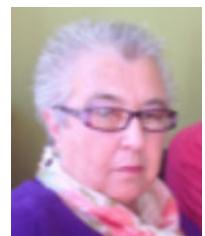
Many will remember Doreen and Patrick Lanham who lived in Corhampton for 30 years until the early nineties when they moved to Bishops Waltham. Patrick died two years ago, and Doreen passed away very recently after a battle with dementia. Their daughter Vanessa Purchase, now living in the New Forest, has written to *The Bridge* to share her memories of the family's happy time here.

Mum and Dad lived at Corhampton Lane Farm Cottages when the farm was run by Charles and Barbara Hall, and they shared great friendships with the Shorts, the Spreadburys, the Ruffells, the Hunters, the Allureds, Za and Patrick Rowe, Liz and Ian Burrow, and many more.

They were always a big part of village life, taking part in all events and activities. They helped to build the Meon Hall, with Mum becoming the caretaker for some time.

She also worked at the Bucks Head when it was owned by Jack and Betty West, and was a care assistant at Corhampton House, which was then a care home owned by the Dunmows. Dad played cricket and football for the village as well, with Mum always helping out with the teas.

When Mum's health deteriorated at Easter this year she went into a care home at West End where she enjoyed her time despite Covid only allowing us to see each other through the window.



Doreen Lanham

But at least we could enjoy a socially-distanced afternoon tea and a cuppa with her.

Her life ended on 11th September, after I and my sister Sarah had been to see her only the previous day.

We thank everyone who was part of our life in Corhampton and Meonstoke in those days, and for helping to make our family life there so enjoyable.

Vanessa Purchase

John Corbett: 'a wonderful, eccentric maverick'

Villagers have reacted generously to a memorial fund set up to support Tors Corbett after the sudden death of her husband John at the age of 58.

The donations to the John Corbett Memorial Fund, have ranged from £5 to individual anonymous gifts of £5,000, helping to bring the total raised in just a few weeks to more than £30,000.

Many of the contributors are local parents who, over the years, have become friends with the family while gathering to collect their children from Meonstoke and Droxford schools.

Others in our villages know them from having attended Tors' Pilates and Woodland Workout classes, held at their home, Damson Hill Cottage in Upper Swanmore.

Lydia Westwood from Meonstoke is a family friend, and set up the fund.

She says, "The aim is to raise £60,000 to ensure that Tors and her children can remain in the house that John built for them.



"John was an antiques dealer and their home is full of pieces he has collected over the years. It's a beautiful home which has been a gathering place, with parties and events that both Tors and John loved to host together."

"He had an incredible eye, as does Tors, and together they redesigned their cottage, transforming it into a home so superlative it has been featured in interiors magazines."

"John had only finished building Tors a new studio just weeks before he passed away."

"He was a wonderful, eccentric maverick of a man with a huge passion

for life. He was so very proud of his children, his wife and his home. He had an appreciation for beauty in the smallest things. He was also an amazing raconteur and had a marvellous way with words.

"He was a man with natural swagger; his dapper style and his hats were his trademark, to the extent that Tors asked everyone who attended his memorial at their home to wear a hat in tribute to him."

"It was the most beautiful goodbye, executed perfectly in their oil-lantern lit woodland, despite Covid. John would have loved it. It also showed just how missed he will be by everyone who knew him."

"The outpouring of love and support from the local area has been overwhelming."

To make a donation to the fund, please visit:

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/john-corbett-memorial-fund/donate>

Even Santa has to abide by the Covid regulations!

Because of the current restrictions Santa and his Elves won't this year be able to make their usual visits to our local villages in the sleigh specially built for them by the Meon Valley Lions Club.

However they will be making street collections at various points between 9am and 1pm as follows, and donations towards their valuable work will be gratefully received:

Wickham

Friday 4th December – outside Westlands Farm Shop.

Friday 11th December – outside McCarthy's Fruit and Vegetables.

Saturday 12th December – In the Square.

Swanmore

Saturday 5th December – outside Central Convenience Stores.

Bishops Waltham

Friday 18th December – outside Sainsbury's.

Saturday 19th December – on the High Street.

Recently the Meon Valley Lyons received £4,395 from a generous benefactor to buy a life-changing Smartdrive device to power up the wheelchair of a young lady in Bishops Waltham.

The Club received a letter of thanks from her mother saying, "She can't stop bouncing in her chair and grinning from ear to ear every time it is mentioned! It really will make a huge difference to her quality of life and it is so wonderful to see her so enthused after such a difficult year. Father Christmas literally delivered early this year!"

The Lions are also proud to support and sponsor the new Meon Valley Baby Bank based in Bishops Waltham. This has been set up to help all families in the community who are in need of baby and children's items up to 4 years of age.

You do not need an appointment or referral to go to the Baby Bank; they welcome everyone. They also work with child and family care agencies, such as Home Start and local Health Visitors, to gift items by request to families facing financial and emotional stress. They are also raising money for new storage.

The Baby Bank is open on the first Thursday of every month. Find out more at www.facebook.com/meonvalleybabylonk



Santa won't be riding his sleigh around our villages this Christmas, but he and his Elves will still be around on foot, greeting people in Bishops Waltham, Swanmore and Wickham.

TEXTING DONATIONS:

Simply text LIONS to 70490 to donate £3, OR if you would like to donate between £1 and £20 text LIONS followed by your donation amount, e.g. to donate £5 text LIONS 5 or to donate £10 text LIONS 10. Texts cost your chosen donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

Santa, Rudolph and the Elves



Exton vineyard enjoys a great harvest, thanks to some hard-working villagers

Exton Park Vineyard is celebrating the end of an excellent harvest. They were bolstered by the help of seven local villagers who spent a week picking grapes, stripping vine leaves, and helping to load the grape press.

Director of the 60 acre estate, Fred Langdale, congratulated them on what he called “their herculean efforts of energy and stamina.”

Their hard work over harvest will contribute to some of the exciting wines being produced at Exton Park. The estate produces around 60,000 bottles of sparkling wine each year, which is sold in some of the finest restaurants around the UK and exported to five other countries. Closer to home, you can find their wines in The Shoe, The Bakers Arms, and in the Meonstoke and West Meon village shops.

The vineyard is sited on the rolling chalk slopes of Hampshire’s South Downs National Park. It is now entering its 10th year of wine production, and has won multiple awards. Fred Langdale explained that “in terms of location, soil composition and aspect, we have one of the best sites in the south of England for producing high quality sparkling wine grapes, right here in the Meon Valley.”

Sales Director Kit Ellen added, “There are around 700 vineyards in the UK. Some are tiny, with just a few acres, while others are huge producers with large facilities.

“We sit somewhere in between these; a true single-estate producer. Fred and his team plant the vines and grow all of our fruit, and we have a state-of-the-art winery where our Head Winemaker, Corinne Seely, expertly crafts our distinctive blends.

“What really sets Exton Park apart is the fact that we oversee the entire production process here on the estate, from vine to wine, and that we have an unrivalled library of reserve wines in our winery, stretching back to 2011.”



Sue and Claire

Loading the press after the harvest are Sue Robertson (left) and Claire Middleton. Villagers who also helped out were Sue’s son Taylor, Piers Frere-Cook, Pat Van Niekirk, Charlotte Lumby and Mark Dobson.

Sue and Claire have been helping with the harvest three years running. Sue recalls: “It began when my husband Keith and I decided to forgo our usual annual holiday and volunteer to help with the harvest at the vineyard with our good friends Roy and Claire Middleton and two others.

“We couldn’t have had a better time. With an amazing Indian summer, we spent most of the three weeks clad only in shorts and vests and got ourselves our holiday tan and a serious workout for free, without the cost of the holiday!

“Claire and I have returned every year since and, contrary to public belief, we don’t just pick a few grapes. There is a lot of manual humping and lumping to get the grapes from the vineyard and back up the winery, where they are put into the press and sorted, ready for producing the grape juice to be processed for the wine.

“It’s all very repetitive and hard work, but hugely rewarding, and a great way of doing something productive for our community. We’ll be back there next year, if they’ll have us.”



Kit Ellen and Fred Langdale out on the 60 acre site

"One of the hardest things I've ever done... but so rewarding"

Droxford Fire recruit Mike completes the tough training course

Droxford Fire Station's newest recruit, 49-year-old Mike Wigglesworth, has just successfully passed the final one of the four training courses required as part of the path to becoming a competent firefighter.

Here Mike, who lives in North End Lane, reflects on how he coped with its immensely rigorous procedures and tests.

Like all new recruits, in addition to weekly drill nights, I was required to complete four modules of training at Hampshire Fire and Rescue's Academy in Eastleigh.

The first eight-day course covered all the basics every firefighter needs to know in order to be competent to ride the appliance, including safe ladder procedures, pumping water and correct operation of the hoses.

Then came five days covering all the procedures, tools and specific skills required to assist at road traffic collisions.

The most demanding part

That was followed by another five-day course covering the medical equipment we carry, and emergency care we are able to provide.

However by far the most demanding training came during the mammoth 14-day 'Mod B' course. This teaches us how to use the breathing apparatus, safely enter and search a smoke filled building, fight fires inside compartments, rescue casualties, and use tactical methods of ventilation to improve conditions.

Ask any firefighter and they will say that completing the course was an incredibly rewarding achievement.

As a builder, bathroom and kitchen

fitter by trade, I felt confident I would be physically able to manage the course, but did not realise the psychological demands.

It was quite possibly one of the hardest things I have ever had to do.

There was so much to learn, so many small but massively important details to



Mike, on the left, in his breathing apparatus after leaving the fire-filled shipping container at the Training Academy in Eastleigh



Mike Wigglesworth

get right.

And then you're sent into a fully-developed real fire in a modified shipping container, with hot angry flames heading your way, and temperatures reaching well over the point where normal life is possible for little more than a couple of seconds.

Incredible opportunity

The first time I did it, I can't explain in gentlemanly words how it felt. But the second time, I was actually looking forward to it! What an incredible opportunity to do something very few people will ever undertake.

Now I've passed the course I'll be tested every six months on procedures for safely searching a smoke-filled building; and the shipping container assessment is repeated every two years.

If you'd like to know more, come down to the fire station on a Tuesday night from 6.30pm and say hello.

FF Mike Wigglesworth
41 Droxford



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

SOME LOCAL SERVICES & USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POST OFFICES

Droxford, High Street
Meonstoke Post Office Warnford Road, Corhampton

878811
877374

DROXFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

For more information on local events and activities:
www.droxforweb.co.uk

STORES

Droxford Stores, High Street
Corhampton Village Stores
Meringtons Stores, Garrison Hill, Droxford
Droxford Antiques, High Street, Droxford

878811
877374
877284
878800

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Adult Services 0300 555 1386
Children's Services 0845 603 5620
The above numbers are open Mon. to Thurs. 8.30am - 4.30pm
The out-of-hours number is 0845 600 4555

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Baker's Arms, Droxford
The Bucks Head, Meonstoke
The Shoe, Exton
The White Horse, Droxford

877533
877313
877526
877490

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Reporting Crime

ONLY CALL 999 - if a crime is taking place, or has just happened; if you have immediate concern for someone's safety, including a medical emergency; if you see a traffic collision involving injury or danger to other road users, or if you see something suspicious that requires immediate attention. The more information that you can provide, the better.

CALL 101 or use the Internet, to report crimes that are not in progress; suspicious people or vehicles, and non-urgent information such as anti-social behaviour, suspected drug use or damage to property.

AFTER contacting one of the above, please ALSO contact your street coordinator with details of the report. If not available, try any other coordinator including the Chairman.

GARAGES

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Taylors Garage Ltd, Droxford

877431
877433

SCHOOLS

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Meonstoke School
Valley Pre-school
Swanmore College of Technology

877537
877568
878019
892256

CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE

Stocks Lane	Peter Riley (Chair)	07702 863954
Rectory Lane	Sally & Mike Fithyan	877839
High Street	Janet Dobby	878657
Warnford Road	Jerry Pett	877633
Corhampton Lane	Janine Casey	877561
Pound Lane, west	Patrick Monger	877161
Pound Lane, east	Linda Foot	877763
Fry's Lane	Charlie Fullegar	07876 524457
Bridgemead	Charlie Fullegar	07876 524457
Chapel Road	Gemma Radcliffe	877276
New Road	Jenny Liardet	877583
Allen's Lane	Lesley Daysh	877327
St Andrew's Green	Lesley Daysh Frances	877327
Brockbridge Road	Keppel	878774
Millside	Phil Butler	877596

EXTON

Sue Robertson 878545

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**Central Meon Valley**

Linda Gemmell (Con) lgemmell@winchestergov.uk
Frank Pearson (Con) fpearson@winchester.gov.uk
Vicki Weston (Ind) yweston@winchester.gov.uk

Upper Meon Valley

Laurence Ruffell (Con) lruffell@winchester.gov.uk
Hugh Lumby (Con) hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

DROXFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings: Mrs Terry Crowfoot

877631

DROXFORD

High Street	James Matthissen	07914 638082
Sheep Pond Lane	Matt Avison	mattavison@hotmail.com
Dundridge Lane, east	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Midlington Hill	Charlotte Treloar	charlottetreloar7@hotmail.com
Swanmore Road	Sarah Smith	878008
Midlington Road	Deborah Hemsworth	07719 987758
South Hill, west	Tony Hoile (dep. chair)	07506 849443
Union Lane	Bonnie Rankin	07977 022363
The Park	Jen Hillman	jensam.jw@gmail.com
The Park	Pennie Brown	878726
Northend Lane	Colin Richardson (chair)	07711 058744
Chestnut Rise	John Whittaker	877788
Mill Lane	Sally Sturt (dep. chair)	07767 301095
South Hill, east	Sally Sturt (dep. chair)	07767 301095

COMMUNITY CARE TRANSPORT COORDINATORS:

(Please ring only between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm)

Droxford
Exton, Meonstoke & Corhampton

07977 096586
07795 928065

DISTRICT DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2020

Thu 3	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am
Tue 8	MV Art Society talk, "A Dickens of a Christmas" Zoom 10.30am
	Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.30am
Thu 10	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
Thu 10	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am
Tue 15	Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.30am
	Preschool Nativity Play filming, Meon Hall am/pm
Thu 17	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am

DISTRICT DIARY FOR JANUARY 2021

Thu 7	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am
Tue 12	MV Art Society talk, "Peggy Guggenheim" Zoom 10.30am
	Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.30am
Weds 13	Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, Meon Hall 7.30pm
Thu 14	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am
Tue 19	Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.30am
Thu 21	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am
Mon 25	Meon Hall Management Committee t.b.d.
Tue 26	Yoga Group, Meon Hall, 9.30am
Thu 28	Meon Valley Orchestra rehearsal, Meon Hall, 9am to Noon
	Toddler group, Meon Hall, 9.30 to 11.30am

Free calls to your local Citizens Advice

Calls to Citizens Advice have now become free of charge. The new freephone number for the Winchester District will be **0808 278 7861**.

This freephone number, which replaces all existing local ones, has been made possible through new Government funding to help Citizens Advice throughout the country to deal with increased demand as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager at the Winchester District office, says: "Our telephone advice service has always been an important part of our advice delivery but never more so than during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

"So as we enter another lockdown, I'm really pleased that we can offer a free local Advice line to anyone who needs our help.

"Having a freephone number will remove a significant barrier to access for some of our clients - giving everyone the ability to access our service easily.

"If you have a query relating to your employment, housing, financial situation, a benefits application, or anything else that's causing you concern, then please do get in touch."

The new number is staffed Monday to Friday by a team of trained local volunteer advisers. If the line is busy you can leave a message, and they will call you back. Or you can email advice@cawinchesterdistrict.org.uk

Two final thoughts at the end of a pretty strange year....

If you'd bought this year from Marks and Spencer you would have taken it back for a refund.

Nick Abbott, LBC

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one's left.

Anon

MUGS

These very fine mugs were designed by the Corhampton 2020-21 arts group and ordered by Guy Liardet who also arranged for one to be given to all of the school children at Meonstoke school.

They are available now at the Meonstoke shop but we have a lot to sell so, if you would like some, please get in touch with me on glogan@btinternet.com



They are £5 each and well worth the cost. They can be paid for by BACS to the FOSACC account sort code 30-90-85, account number 00850180. I am also happy to deliver them around the villages!

Gregor Logan

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

When contacting an advertiser please say you saw it in *The Bridge*.

ACCOMMODATION Wallops Wood Cottages 30

ANTIQUES Droxford Antiques 44

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COMPUTERS & HOME TECHNOLOGY Punchedcard Computer Support and Web Design 31: Computer Problems Solved 39: Gecko Systems 42

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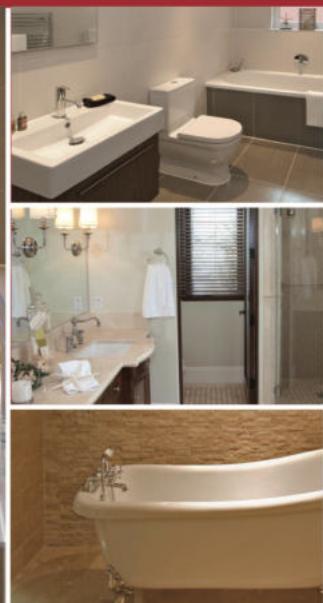
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Daryl Willett Dip FD, CMgr FCMI

Daryl joined the funeral profession in 2001 and after study at the Salisbury College of Funeral Science he gained his Diploma in Funeral Directing in 2003. To support his management credentials he also has a Diploma in Management with a Fellowship of the Chartered Management Institute. He has experience at all levels in the funeral industry and is proud to be a fully qualified Funeral Director of many years standing. Daryl completed five years with the National Association of Funeral Directors Board of Examiners helping others to gain their professional qualifications.



Dee Galloway

Dee worked in Health Care for over 20 years, gaining a Diploma in Health and Social Care and a great reputation for her care, compassion and manner with clients. Dee then joined the funeral profession in 2012 and has gained a great deal of experience supporting the bereaved in the local area. In 2018 Dee joined Richard Steel & Partners of Winchester as an experienced Funeral Director before moving across to Bishops Waltham in 2019 to support the team at Nigel Chamberlain & Partners.



Daryl and the team are available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.
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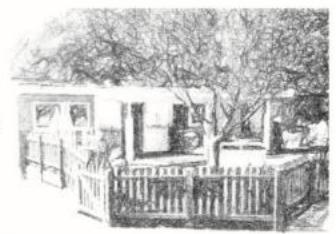
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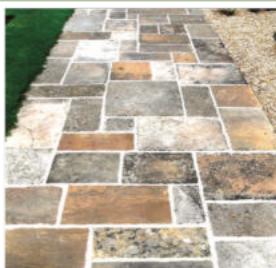
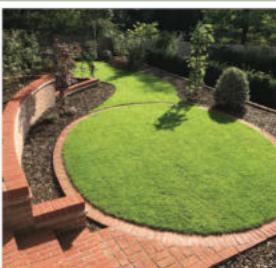
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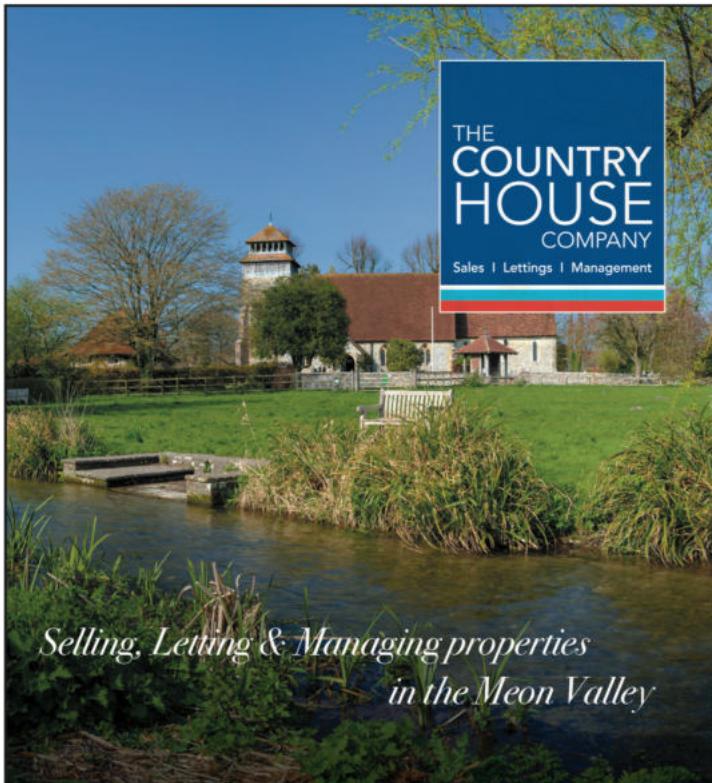
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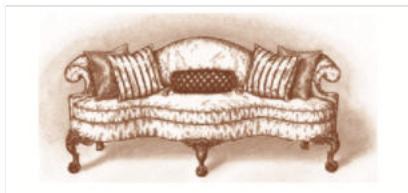
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